



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1616 Avenue M, Suite 100  
Hondo, Texas 78861

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June 2004

Dear Producer:

The Hondo Watershed in the Edwards Plateau of southwest Texas is one of 18 watersheds in the nation selected for the new Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2004. This watershed includes parts of Medina, Uvalde, Frio, and Bandera counties in Texas. We are contacting landowners and operators in the Hondo Watershed to let them know about this program.

As a landowner or operator in the Hondo Watershed, you may be eligible to apply for the CSP during a signup period scheduled for July 6 to July 30, 2004.

The CSP program will identify and reward those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

Payments can include four components: 1) an annual stewardship payment, 2) an annual payment for maintenance, 3) a one-time new practice payment, and 4) an enhancement payment. The participant can enroll a portion of their operation or the entire operation in the program.

At a minimum, farms and ranches will need to meet soil and water quality criteria. This could include nutrient management, pest management and prescribed grazing. The participant will be required to provide documentation that demonstrates accomplishment of the practice(s).

CSP is a competitive program. All eligible applicants will be entered into an enrollment category. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman will select the highest ranking categories to be funded.

To help you assess your opportunities in CSP, informational meetings will be held as follows:

June 29 – Hondo Civic Center, 1014 18<sup>th</sup> St., 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
June 29 – Bandera Ag Center, 2454 Hwy 16 North, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
June 30 – Hondo Civic Center, 1014 18<sup>th</sup> St., 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
June 30 – Pearsall, Security State Bank, 100 N. Oak, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

For additional information, you may contact your local NRCS Office in Hondo at (830)426-2521, Bandera at (830)796-3334, Uvalde at (830)278-2014, or Pearsall at (830)334-4112.

Sincerely,

Phillip Wright  
Hondo Watershed Manager